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Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 118 appear in the report of the Committee contained in document A/63/648.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the question of development-related activities under agenda item 118 at its 6th, 8th, 9th, 27th and 28th meetings, on 14, 16 and 21 October and 22 and 23 December 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.6, 8, 9, 27 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the question, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of development-related activities and revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/708);

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[1]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the Development Account (A/63/335);

(d) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/479).

[1] A/62/7/Add.40. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

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II. Consideration of draft proposals

4. At its 27th meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Development-related activities" (A/C.5/63/L.9), which was submitted by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China. The draft resolution read as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* paragraph 73 of its resolution 62/236 of 22 December 2007,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987,

"*Recalling further* its resolutions 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, 52/220 and 52/221 A of 22 December 1997, 52/235 of 26 June 1998, 53/220 A of 7 April 1999, 53/220 B of 8 June 1999, 54/15 of 29 October 1999, 56/237 of 24 December 2001 and 60/246 of 23 December 2005, section IV of its resolution 61/252 of 22 December 2006 and section VIII of its resolution 62/238 of 22 December 2007,

"*Reaffirming* Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental role of the United Nations in the promotion of international economic and social cooperation,

"*Reaffirming also* the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations,

"*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of the development-related activities and the revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 and on the Development Account as well as the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

"1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of the development-related activities and the revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, and on the Development Account;

"2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

"3. *Reaffirms* its commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the special needs of and challenges faced by Africa, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, decides, in this regard, not to abolish the post of the Special Adviser on Africa and one General Service (Other level) post, and requests the Secretary-General to fill these posts as a matter of urgency;

"4. *Reiterates* its commitment to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable, takes note, in

this regard, of paragraph 36 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and decides to approve the proposals of the Secretary-General for additional posts in the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women;

"5. *Recognizes* the growing demand for the capacity-building activities and other technical cooperation services of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration for the Member States, especially countries with economies in transition, and, in this regard, decides to establish one P-4 post under subprogramme 4, economic cooperation and integration, of section 19, Economic development in Europe, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;

"6. *Takes note* of paragraphs 31, 32 and 39 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and decides to establish, under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium, two P-5 posts and one P-4 post (general temporary assistance), under executive direction and management, one P-4 post, under subprogramme 1, Economic and Social Council support and coordination, and two P-4 and two P-3 posts, under subprogramme 5, Statistics;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution, as well as to continue to analyse the gaps in the capacity of the Secretariat to implement its mandates in the development field, and to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on proposals to further strengthen the development-related activities of the Secretariat."

5. At the 28th meeting, on 23 December, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, withdrew draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.9.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Development-related activities" (A/C.5/63/L.20), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Mexico.

7. Also at its 28th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.20 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Development-related activities

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of development-related activities and revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009[1] and the Development Account,[2] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of development-related activities and revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009[1] and the Development Account;[2]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Acknowledges* that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being, and recognizes that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing;

4. *Stresses* the importance of a coherent vision of the Secretariat's role in the global development architecture;

5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to enhance the coordination of the United Nations Development System with a view to ensuring greater synergies, effectiveness, efficiencies and coherence of efforts in the delivery of its social, economic and development mandates;

6. *Decides* to establish the posts as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

7. *Also decides* that the posts for section 17, Economic and social development in Africa, section 18, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, section 19, Economic development in Europe, section 20, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and section 21, Economic and social development in Western Asia, shall be established effective 1 January 2009, and the posts for section 9, Economic and social affairs, section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, section 11, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's

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[1] A/62/708.

[2] A/63/335.

[3] A/62/7/Add.40 (for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 7A*) and A/63/479.

Development, and section 12, Trade and development, shall be established effective 1 July 2009;

8. *Further decides* not to abolish the post of the Special Adviser on Africa at the level of Under-Secretary-General;

9. *Decides* not to approve the non-post resources for travel of staff, consultants and experts and contractual services, excluding the regional commissions;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution within the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

Annex

Development-related activities: posts to be established under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Section and subprogramme	*Number of posts*	*Level*
9. Economic and social affairs		
Executive direction and management	1	1 P-5
1: Economic and Social Council support and coordination	1	1 P-4
2: Gender issues and advancement of women	5	1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3
3: Social policy and development	1	1 P-4
4: Sustainable development	1	1 P-4
5: Statistics	1	1 P-3
6: Population	1	1 P-4
9: Sustainable forest management	1	1 P-5
10: Financing for development	1	1 P-4
Subtotal	**13**	**3 P-5, 7 P-4, 3 P-3**
10. Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States		
1: Least developed countries	1	1 P-4
2: Landlocked developing countries	1	1 P-4
3: Small island developing States	1	1 P-4
Subtotal	**3**	**3 P-4**
11. United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development		
1: Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development	3	1 P-4, 2 P-3
Subtotal	**3**	**1 P-4, 2 P-3**
12. Trade and development		
1: Globalization, interdependence and development	6	1 D-1, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3
2: Investment, enterprise and technology	2	1 P-5, 1 P-4
3: International trade	2	1 D-1, 1 P-4
5: Africa, least developed countries and special programmes	2	1 D-1, 1 P-4
Subtotal	**12**	**3 D-1, 2 P-5, 5 P-4, 2 P-3**
17. Economic and social development in Africa		
Executive direction and management	1	1 National Officer
7: Subregional activities for development	11	11 National Officer
9: Statistics	6	2 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3

Section and subprogramme	*Number of posts*	*Level*
Programme support	1	1 National Officer
Subtotal	**19**	**2 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 13 National Officer**
18. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific		
3: Subregional activities for development	11	2 D-1, 4 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 Local level, 1 National Officer
Subtotal	**11**	**2 D-1, 4 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 Local level, 1 National Officer**
19. Economic development in Europe		
Executive direction and management	1	1 P-4
3: Statistics	1	1 P-3
5: Sustainable energy	1	1 P-4
Programme support	1	1 P-3
Subtotal	**4**	**2 P-4, 2 P-3**
20. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean		
1: Linkages with the global economy, regional integration and cooperation	2	1 P-4, 1 P-3
2: Production and innovation	1	1 P-3
4: Social development and equity	1	1 P-3
5: Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development	2	1 P-5, 1 P-3
6: Population and development	1	1 P-3
8: Sustainable development and human settlements	3	1 P-5, 1 P-3, 1 P-2
9: Natural resources and infrastructure	4	1 P-4, 2 P-2, 1 Local level
10: Statistics and economic projections	1	1 P-3
11: Subregional activities in Mexico and Central America	3	1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 Local level
12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean	2	2 P-3
Subtotal	**20**	**2 P-5, 3 P-4, 10 P-3, 3 P-2, 2 Local level**
21. Economic and social development in Western Asia		
1: Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development	1	1 P-4
2: Integrated social policies	1	1 P-4
3: Economic development and integration	1	1 P-4
4: Information and communication technology for regional integration	2	1 P-5, 1 National Officer
5: Statistics for evidence-based policymaking	1	1 P-3
Subtotal	**6**	**1 P-5, 3 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 National Officer**
Total	**91**	